

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method for preventing or treating a condition mediated by a steroid receptor in a subject comprising administering a PSF Polypeptide, a PSF Polynucleotide, a PSF Complex, and/or an agonist or antagonist thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~13~~ or 14 wherein the condition is labor.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~13~~ or 14 wherein the condition is cancer.

17. (Original) A method for identifying a substance that modulates a steroid receptor, a PSF Polypeptide, a PSF Complex, a process mediated by a steroid receptor, degradation of a steroid receptor, a steroid receptor signaling transduction pathway, a condition mediated by a steroid receptor, steroid receptor transactivation, and/or inhibits or potentiates the interaction of a steroid receptor and a PSF Polypeptide, comprising assaying for a substance that inhibits or stimulates a PSF Polypeptide, a PSF Polynucleotide, or PSF Complex.

18. (Original) A method of claim 17 for evaluating a substance for its ability to regulate the onset of labor comprising the steps of:

(a) reacting a PSF Polypeptide and a progesterone receptor and a test substance, wherein the PSF Polypeptide and receptor bind to form a complex; and

(b) comparing to a control in the absence of the substance to determine if the substance stimulates or inhibits the binding of the PSF Polypeptide to the receptor and thereby regulates the onset of labor.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a drug discovery business comprising:

(a) providing a method for identifying a substance as claimed in claim 18 or 19;

(b) conducting therapeutic profiling of substances identified in step (a), or further analogs thereof, for efficacy and toxicity in animals; and

(c) formulating a pharmaceutical preparation including one or more substances identified in step (b) as having an acceptable therapeutic profile.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 17 wherein the steroid receptor is a progesterone receptor, a glucocorticoid receptor, or an androgen receptor.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 17 wherein the PSF polypeptide comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 21, or part thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 22 wherein a part of a PSF Polypeptide consists of a binding domain of the polypeptide that interacts with a steroid receptor, preferably the part is a RRMII domain, a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1-150, amino acids 290-370, or amino acids 1-662 of SEQ ID NO. 1.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 17 wherein the steroid receptor is progesterone receptor comprising SEQ ID NOs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15, or SEQ ID NO. 10 with amino acids 1 to 164 missing, or parts thereof.

25. (Original) A method of claim 24 wherein a part of a progesterone receptor consists of a binding domain of the polypeptide that interacts with a PSF Polypeptide, preferably a DBD domain or a AF3 domain, a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1-164 of SEQ ID NO. 10, amino acids 456-650 of SEQ ID NO. 10, amino acids 567-587 of SEQ ID NO. 10, or amino acids 556 to 933 of SEQ ID NO. 10.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14 for regulating the onset of labor in a subject comprising inhibiting or stimulating a PSF Polypeptide, PSF Polynucleotide, a complex of a PSF Polypeptide and a progesterone receptor (PSF-PR Complex), or interaction between a PSF Polypeptide and a PR Polypeptide.

27-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) A method for identifying pre-term labor or the onset of labor in a subject comprising detecting a PSF Polypeptide, PSF Polynucleotide, and/or PSF Complex in a sample from the subject.

40. (Original) A method of claim 39 for diagnosing in a subject a condition requiring regulation of the onset of labor comprising detecting a PSF Polypeptide in a sample from the subject.

41. (Original) A method of claim 39 for diagnosing increased risk of pre-term labor in a subject comprising detecting a PSF Polypeptide in a sample from the subject.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 39, ~~40, or 41~~ which comprises (a) collecting a sample from the subject; (b) measuring the levels of PSF Polypeptide in the sample; and (c) comparing the levels of PSF Polypeptide in the sample to the levels in subjects with normal pregnancies.

43. (Original) A method of claim 42 wherein significantly increased levels in the sample compared to levels in samples from subjects who do not suffer from pre-term labor is indicative of an increased risk of pre-term labor.

44. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition adapted for administration to a subject for the prevention or treatment of a condition mediated by a steroid receptor comprising an effective amount of a PSF Polypeptide, PSF Complex, and/or PSF Polynucleotide, or an agonist or antagonist thereof, or an agent, compound or substance identified using a method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 17, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 44 ~~or 45~~ wherein the steroid receptor is progesterone receptor.

47-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A kit for carrying out a method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 17.

54. (Cancelled)